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. 4.	Application No.	Applicant(s)		
	10/784,877	FUKUDA ET AL.		
Notice of Allowability	Examiner	Art Unit		
	Melanie Tyson	3731		
The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.				
1. This communication is responsive to <u>amendment received</u>	on 17 October 2007.			
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are <u>1-26</u> .				
<ul> <li>3.  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority una)  All b)  Some* c)  None of the: <ol> <li>Certified copies of the priority documents have</li> <li>Certified copies of the priority documents have</li> <li>Copies of the certified copies of the priority do International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).</li> </ol> </li> <li>* Certified copies not received:</li> </ul>	been received. been received in Application No			
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONN THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.		complying with the requirements		
4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be subminformal PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which give				
5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.				
(a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached				
1) I hereto or 2) I to Paper No./Mail Date				
(b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date				
Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1 each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in t				
6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.				
Attachment(s)  1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	5. ☐ Notice of Informal P	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
2. Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	6. ☐ Interview Summary	• •		
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),	Paper No./Mail Dat 7.  ☐ Examiner's Amendr	te		
Paper No./Mail Date  4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material  (JAC SUPERVIS	8. Examiner's Statement 9. Other CHIE) TAN-UYEN HO BORY PATENT EXAMINER	Melanie Tyson December 11, 2007		

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

## LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A medical lancet, comprising:

a first ascending region having a sharp point, a descending region, and a second ascending region subsequently and integrally formed of biodegradable material, extending from the point in a predetermined direction, each of said regions having triangular cross sections taken along any planes perpendicular to the predetermined direction;

said first and second ascending regions having the triangular cross sections of which area monotonically increases as being away from the point; and

said descending region having the triangular cross sections of which area monotonically decreases as being away from the point;

wherein said first and second ascending regions have the largest cross section having substantially the same size and shape to each other.

2. (Previously Presented)The medical lancet according to Claim 1, further comprising:

at least one additional descending and ascending regions subsequently and integrally formed of biodegradable material and connected to said second ascending region, extending in the predetermined direction;

wherein each of said additional descending and ascending regions has the triangular cross sections taken along any planes perpendicular to the predetermined direction, of which area monotonically decreases and increases as being away from the point, respectively; and

wherein said first and second ascending regions have the largest cross section having substantially the same size and shape to each other.

3. (Currently Amended) The medical lancet according to Claim 1, wherein the smallest cross section in the descending region is similar to the largest cross section in the ascending regions, and

wherein the smallest cross section in the descending region has [[the]] an area greater than one-fourth of the area of the largest cross section in the ascending regions.

4. (Currently Amended) The medical lancet according to Claim 3, wherein the smallest cross section in the descending region has [[the]] an area greater than four-ninths of the area of the largest cross section in the ascending regions.

5. (Original) The medical lancet according to Claim 1,

wherein the largest cross sections in said first and second ascending regions are spaced away from each other by a gap greater than one micron.

6. (Original) The medical lancet according to Claim 1,

wherein a continuous curved portion is provided between said descending region and said second ascending region for smoothly connecting thereof.

- 7. (Original) The medical lancet according to Claim 1, further comprising: a constant region integrally formed of biodegradable material between said descending region and said second ascending region, having triangular cross sections taken along any planes perpendicular to the predetermined direction, of which area is constant.
  - 8. (Original) The medical lancet according to Claim 1,

wherein the area of the triangular cross sections in the first and second ascending regions are linearly increased at first and second increasing rates, respectively, and the first increasing rate falling within a range between one-sixteenth and one of the second increasing rate.

9. (Original) The medical lancet according to Claim 8,

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wherein the first increasing rate is one-ninth of the second increasing rate.

10. (Original) The medical lancet according to Claim 1, further comprising:

a holding region of biodegradable material connected to said second ascending region.

11. (Original) The medical lancet according to Claim 1, further comprising:

at least one channel extending in the predetermined direction through at least one of said first and second ascending regions and descending region.

- 12. (Original) The medical lancet according to Claim 11, wherein said holding region has at least one chamber in communication with said channel.
  - 13. (Original) The medical lancet according to Claim 12, wherein said channel has at least one opening.
  - 14. (Original) The medical lancet according to Claim 11,

wherein said channel has at least two openings spaced away from each other by a predetermined gap.

15. (Currently Amended) The medical lancet according to Claim 11, wherein said at least one channel includes a plurality of channels said channels are provided, and

wherein said holding region has a plurality of [[said]] chambers, each of the chambers being in communication with corresponding one of said <u>plurality</u> of channels.

16. (Original) The medical lancet according to Claim 1, further comprising:

at least one groove extending in the predetermined direction through at least one of said first and second ascending regions and descending region.

17. (Currently Amended) The medical lancet according to Claim 1, further comprising:

a plurality of vertical cavities extending in a vertical direction perpendicular to the predetermined direction; and

a seal membrane of biodegradable material for sealing said vertical cavities;

wherein the seal membrane has the thickness in the vertical direction that varies varying based upon the position of each of the vertical cavities.

18. (Previously Presented) A medical lancet, comprising:

a first ascending region having a sharp point, a descending region, and a second ascending region subsequently and integrally formed of biodegradable material, extending from the point in a predetermined direction, each of said regions having trapezoidal cross sections taken along any planes perpendicular to the predetermined direction;

said first and second ascending regions having the trapezoidal cross sections of which base monotonically increases as being away from the point; and

said descending region having the trapezoidal cross sections of which base monotonically decreases as being away from the point;

wherein said first and second ascending regions have the largest cross section having substantially the same size and shape to each other.

19. (Previously Presented) The medical lancet according to Claim 18, further comprising:

at least one additional descending and ascending regions subsequently and integrally formed of biodegradable material and connected to said second ascending region, extending in the predetermined direction; wherein each of said additional descending and ascending regions has the trapezoidal cross sections taken along any planes perpendicular to the predetermined direction, of which base monotonically decreases and increases as being away from the point, respectively; and

wherein said first and second ascending regions have the largest cross section having substantially the same size and shape to each other.

- 20. (Currently Amended) The medical lancet according to Claim 18, wherein the smallest cross section in the descending region has [[the]] a base greater than a half of the base of the largest cross section in the ascending regions.
- 21. (Currently Amended) The medical lancet according to Claim 20, wherein the smallest cross section in the descending region has [[the]] a base greater than two-thirds of the base of the largest cross section in the ascending regions.
- 22. (Original) The medical lancet according to Claim 18, wherein the largest cross sections in said first and second ascending regions are spaced away from each other by a gap greater than one micron.

23. (Original) The medical lancet according to Claim 18, further comprising:

a constant region integrally formed of biodegradable material between said descending region and said second ascending region, having trapezoidal cross sections taken along any planes perpendicular to the predetermined direction, of which base is constant.

24. (Original) The medical lancet according to Claim 18,

wherein the base of the trapezoidal cross sections in the first and second ascending regions are linearly increased at first and second increasing rates, respectively, and the first increasing rate falling within a range between one-fourth and one of the second increasing rate.

25. (Original) The medical lancet according to Claim 24, wherein the first increasing rate is one-third of the second increasing

26. (Original) The medical lancet according to Claim 18, further comprising:

rate.

a holding region of biodegradable material connected to said second ascending region.

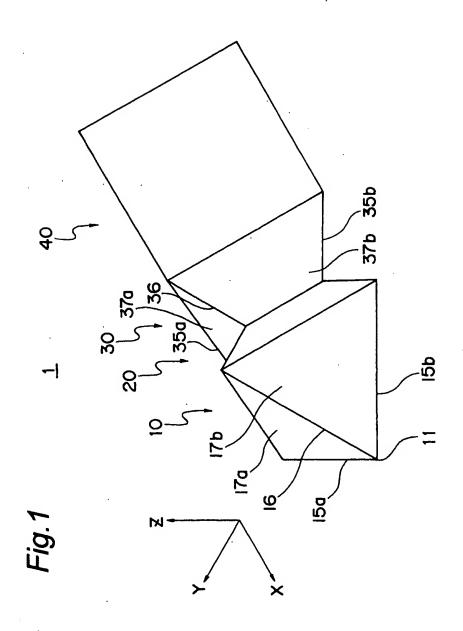


Fig.2A

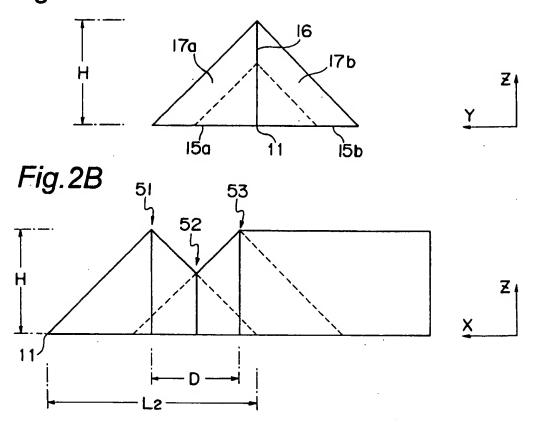


Fig.2C

